

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 JUSE-00 /059 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8332

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, KS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF PAK TONG SUN CASE

REF: SEOUL 10673

SUMMARY: DECEMBER 21 AFTERNOON PRESS PROMINENTLY FEATURED ARTICLES SUGGESTING IMMINENT SIGNING OF AGREEMENT ON PAK CASE. ALSO CARRIED REUTERS WASHINGTON DISPATCH ON CIVILETTI REMARKS AND UPI STORY THAT 20 PRESENT AND FORMER CONGRESSMAN MAY BE IMPLICATED IF PAK TESTIFIES. END SUMMARY.

1. KYONGHYANG ILBO TOP HEADLINED AND OTHER PAPERS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE DEC 21 TO STORY THAT PAK CASE AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED BY THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK. PRESS ANTICIPATED THAT U.S. DOJ OFFICIALS WILL COME TO KOREA IN EARLY JANUARY, AFTER DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED. CHUNGANG ILBO SPECULATED THAT PAK WOULD GO TO U.S. IN LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY, REPORTS SAID THAT ON THE ISSUE OF PAK'S SAFE RETURN THE DOCUMENT WOULD READ, "MR. PAK WILL RETURN TO KOREA AFTER TESTIMONY IN U.S. COURT." PAPERS SAID THAT A U.S. GUARANTEE OF PAK'S RETURN (WHETHER OR NOT HE CHOSE TO DO SO) WAS NOT WRITTEN INTO THE AGREEMENT DUE TO DIFFICULTIES WITH U.S.

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LEGAL SYSTEM. KYONGHYANG SHINMUN ADDED THAT A U.S. DEMAND FOR AN ADVANCE GUARANTEE OF PAK'S INTENTIONS HAD BEEN SETTLED BY A LETTER, WHICH PAK SENT TO AMB SNEIDER THIS WEEK, PROMISING THAT PAK WOULD RETURN TO U.S. KYONGHYANG SHINMUN ALSO REPORTED THAT FONMIN AND AMBASSADOR WOULD HAVE A FINAL MEETING ON DEC 23, AND THAT THERE WILL BE ONE OR TWO HITHERTO UNDISCLOSED ITEMS IN THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT.

2. DECEMBER 21 PAPERS CARRIED EXCERPTS OF REUTER ARTICLE QUOTING BENJAMIN CIVILETTI THAT "WE'RE DOWN TO THE REAL FINE POINTS" OF NEGOTIATIONS ON PAK COMING TO U.S. ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS REPORTED THAT CIVILETTI TOLD REPORTERS THAT SEOUL HAD NOT DECEIVED U.S. DESPITE THE FACT THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD TAKEN NINE MONTHS.

3. PRESS CARRIED UPI STORY THAT 20 PRESENT AND FORMER CONGRESSMEN WOULD BE IMPLICATED IF PAK CAME TO U.S. REPORTS SAID PAK'S TESTIMONY WILL BE MOST DAMAGING TO 6 U.S. REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE RECEIVED \$5000 OR MORE EACH. REPORTS FURTHER SAID THAT AMONG THOSE WHO MIGHT BE IMPLICATED WAS A "FORMER DEMOCRATIC HOUSE LEADER." LATER REPORTS SAID THAT IT WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER JUSTICE DEPT WILL INDICT THOSE CONGRESSMAN WHO RECEIVED IMPROPERLY \$1000-2000. SOURCES CLOSE TO THE INVESTIGATION WERE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THE PROSECUTION IS TO DETECT BRIBERY RATHER THAN ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS. SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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